

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

USCINCSO

XMT AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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FOLLOWING REPEAT BOGOTA 9718 ACTION DEPT INFO BUENOS AIRES
MONTEVIDEO NOV 1ST

QUOTE

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E O 11652 NA

TAGS PFOR CO

SUBJ: WORKINGGROUPON SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

REF STATE 233736

BA/MONTEVIDEO - PASS - AMB BOWDLER

1. POLLACK MET WITH DR OTERO DIRECTOR OF COLCIENCIAS AND OFFICIALS OF
RELATED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGS FOR TWO AND A HALF HOUR DIS-
CUSSION OCT 31. OLIVERIO PHILLIPS MICHELSEN, ASST TO THE PRES
FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, JOINED DISCUSSION FOR LAST HOUR DURING
WHICH HE SERVED AS PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN FOR COLOMBIAN SIDE.
WHEN INITIALLY APPROACHED FOR APPOINTMENT FOREIGN OFFICE DEFERRED
TO COLCIENCIAS. WHEN APPROACHED AGAIN AFTER POLLACK ARRIVAL,
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IMPOSSIBLE TO WORK OUT COMPATIBLE TIME FOR APPOINTMENT. CHARGE

PLANS TO FOLLOW UP WITH FORNMIN NEXT WEEK.

2. COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS, WHILE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH PRODUCT OF SUB GROUP I, WHICH MET IN BOGOTA, HAD VERY LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF ACTIVITIES OTHER SUB-GROUPS OR PARENT WORKING GROUP. OTERO SAID LACK OF COLOMBIAN PARTICIPATION ATTRIBUTABLE TO GOVT AUSTERITY PROGRAM WHICH ENTAILS HEAVY CUTS IN FOREIGN TRAVEL OF COLOMBIN OFFICIALS.

3. IN ADDITION TO PRESENTING US THINKING AS CONTAINED IN TALKING POINTS, POLLACK PROVIDED BACKGROUND ON ACTIVITIES OF WORKING GROUP AND SUB GROUPS TO DATE. REACTION, EXPRESSED PRINCIPALLY BY PHILLIPS, EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED FOCUS ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES INFRA-STRUCTURE IN SCIENCE AND TECH. HE UNDERLINED DIVERSITY OF LA COUNTRIES AND UNEVEN STATUS OF THEIR ECONOMIES AND URGED THAT US NOT TAKEN EXPRESSIONS OF "THE BIG THREE" AS SPEAKING FOR LA AS A WHOLE. IN DOING SO, HE UNDERSCORED IMPORTANCE OF BILATERAL IN CONTRAST TO MULTILATERAL ACTIVITY.

4. PHILLIPS QUESTIONED NEED FOR A NEW MULTILATERAL BODY AND EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM AS TO WHAT A GOVT LEVEL BODY COULD ACCOMPLISH. HE SUPPORTED THE USE OF OAS MECHANISMS ALTERED OR REFORMED AS NECESSARY INSTEAD OF NEW INSTITUTIONS. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION OF OAS, PHILLIPS INDICATED THAT HE FINDS ATTRACTIVE CONCEPT OF A DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AS KEY ELEMENT IN RESTRUCTURED OAS. PHILLIPS FELT THERE SHOULD BE MUCH MORE PARTICIPATION BY US AND LA PRIVATE ENTERPRISE THEN HAD BEEN THE CASE TO DATE. BOTH PHILLIPS AND OTERO INDICATED IMPORTANCE OF NEW FUNDING IN ANY NEW S AND T EFFORT. OTERO AND OTHER COLCIENCIAS OFFICIALS EXPRESSED CONCERN AT CONCEPT OF MECHANISM DEALING ONLY WITH TECHNOLOGY, FEELING IT IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN CONCEPT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AS A SINGLE SYSTEM.

5. SINCE PHILLIPS' VIEWS IN PARTICULAR WERE ON THE WHOLE SO CLOSE TO PRESENT WASHINGTON THINKING, POLLACK URGED MORE VIGOROUS COLOMBIAN PARTICIPATION ESPECIALLY IN UP-COMING SUB GROUP IV AND WORKING GROUP MEETINGS. IT WAS AGREED THAT NORMAN SHAFT, EMB ACTION OFFICER ON THIS PROJECT, WILL FOLLOW UP NEXT WEEK WITH PHILLIPS AND OTERO FOR MORE DEFINITIVE REACTIONS TO US VIEWS.

COMMENT: PHILLIPS IS IMPRESSIVE INDIVIDUAL WHOM WE UNDERSTAND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HELD IN HIGH REGARD BY HIS FELLOW LATINS. EMB WILL CONTINUE TO URGE COLOMBIAN PARTICIPATION IN SUB GROUP IV AND NEXT WORKING GROUP MEETINGS AND SPECIFICALLY THAT OF PHILLIPS. CHARGE WILL RAISE THIS WITH FORNMIN NEXT WEEK. OBVIOUS THAT GOC NOT ORGANIZED TO DEAL WITH MFMA AGENDA AND NO ONE HAS FOCUSED ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TOPIC. WHITE UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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